

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/964,211	ITO ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	James C Kerveros	2133	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to AMENDMENT filed 5/13/2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-87.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 25 September 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).


* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____ 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____ 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
|---|--|


 SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
 TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100

DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office Action is in response to Amendment filed May 13, 2004.
2. The terminal disclaimer filed on October 24, 2003 disclaiming the terminal portion of any patent granted on this application which would extend beyond the expiration date of US Patent No. 6,459,259 has been reviewed and is accepted. The terminal disclaimer has been recorded.
3. Claims 1-25, 29-68, 72-87 rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Maeng (US 6563331) and Claims 26-28 and 69-71 rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maeng (US 6563331) in view of Gray, III (US 6204679), in the prior Office Action mailed 2/13/2004, is hereby withdrawn, in view of the Applicant's Remarks/Arguments included in the Amendment filed May 13, 2004. The Examiner acknowledges the foreign priority date of the present application under USC 119 to be July 2, 1997, which predates the U.S. Application filing dates for both references of Maeng and Gray.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 1-87 are allowed.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:
The prior arts of record taken alone or in combination fail to teach, anticipate, suggest or render obvious the claimed invention recited in the independent

Claims 1 and 44, of a method and a system for testing devices carried by at least two test trays, wherein each tray carries one device, including **a first transport path for transporting the first tray to a first test position, a second transport path for transporting the second tray to a second test position, a tester for testing one device on the first tray at the first test position, and for testing one device on the second tray at the second test position.**

Independent Claims 22 and 65, recite a method and a system for testing devices carried by at least two test trays, wherein each tray carries at least one device, **including at least one transport path for transporting a first tray and a second tray in parallel to a first test position and a second test position, respectively, a tester for testing at least one device on the first tray at the first test position, and for testing at least one device on the second tray at the second test position.**

Consequently, independent claims 1, 22, 44 and 65 are allowed over the prior arts of record. Claims 2-21, 23-43, 45-54 and 66-87 are directly or indirectly depended upon claims 1, 2, 44 and 65 and therefore are also allowable.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James C Kerveros whose telephone number is (703) 305-1081. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00 AM TO 5:00 PM.

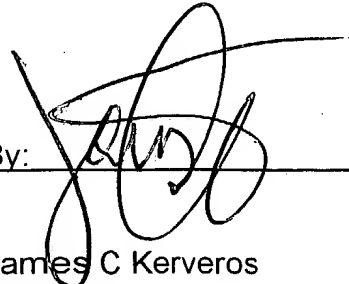
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Albert Decady can be reached on (703) 305-9595. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.


Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Examiner's Fax: (703) 746-4461
Email: james.kerveros@uspto.gov

Date: 10 August 2004
Office Action: Allowance

By: _____


James C Kerveros
Examiner
Art Unit 2133


ALBERT DECADY
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